

REMARKS

In the above-noted Official Action, claims 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claims 1, 2 and 4-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over SUEMOTO et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,075,566) in view of OKAMURA (U.S. Patent No. 6,424,156). Claims 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over TAKAHASHI et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,580,460) in view of OKAMURA. Claim 3 was objected-to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was otherwise indicated to contain allowable subject matter if rewritten into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of the combination of subject matter recited in claim 3, if rewritten into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Upon entry of the present amendment, Applicants will have amended claims 1, 7 and 12 to incorporate features recited originally in claim 3. Applicants have also amended claims 1, 6-7, 9 and 12 to enhance clarity and to eliminate informalities and redundant recitations. Further, Applicants have added claims 14 and 15 to recite features of claim 3 that were not included in the respective independent claims. In view of the amendments to claims 1, 6-7, 9 and 12, as well as the addition of claims 14 and 15, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding rejections and objections.

Applicants wish to particularly note that claims 1, 7 and 12 have not been amended to

include all of the features originally recited in claim 3. Rather, claims 1, 7 and 12 have each been amended to include only a feature similar to the feature (originally recited in claim 3) of “wherein, when said at least one capacitor is connected to said battery in parallel, said at least one capacitor discharges to supply power to said portable electronic device when said portable electronic device is in operation, while said battery supplies power to said at least one capacitor to charge said at least one capacitor”. In other words, claims 1, 7 and 12 were not amended to recite a feature similar to the feature originally recited in claim 3 of “wherein said at least one capacitor comprises at least one large-capacity capacitor”, and this feature remains in claim 3. Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of features recited in each of claims 1, 7 and 12 is not disclosed, suggested or rendered obvious by the references applied in the outstanding Official Action.

Applicants note that the features of original claim 3 which have been added to amended claims 1, 7 and 12 were highlighted in bold in the outstanding Official Action. In this regard, Applicants believe that the Examiner highlighted particular features of original claim 3 in bold in order to emphasize that it was these features, in combination with the features of original claim 1, which she considers to place claim 1 in condition for allowance. However, if Applicants are in error (i.e., if Applicants have misinterpreted the meaning of the highlighting in the outstanding Official Action), Applicants request that the Examiner clarify the record in this regard.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of features recited in amended

claims 1, 7 and 12 are not disclosed, suggested or rendered obvious by the references applied in the outstanding Official Action. In this regard, and as noted above, Applicants believe that the features now recited in amended claim 1 have already been considered by the Examiner to be a combination that is not disclosed, suggested or rendered obvious by the prior art. Further, the features now recited in amended claims 7 and 12 recite a combination of features that is similarly not disclosed or rendered obvious by the references of record. In addition, claim 9 has been amended to eliminate the basis for the rejection thereof under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

The herein-contained amendments should not be taken as an indication of Applicants' acquiescence as to the propriety of the rejections; rather, Applicants have amended the claims to advance prosecution and to obtain early allowance of claims in the present application.

Accordingly, in view of the herein-contained amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that each of amended claims 1, 7 and 12 are in condition for allowance. Applicants further submit that each of claims 2-6, 8-11 and 13-15 are allowable at least for depending, directly or indirectly, from an allowable independent claim, as well as for additional reasons related to their own recitations. Accordingly, in view of the herein-contained amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding rejections of claims 1-2 and 4-13 and objection to claim 3, as well as an indication of the allowability of each of the claims now pending.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance, and believes that he has now done so. Applicant has amended the claims to recite subject matter similar to the combination of subject matter indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, as well as an indication of the allowance of each of the claims now pending.

Any amendments which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any questions regarding this paper, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
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